

*FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND VOTER REGISTRATION*  
*Regular OCTOBER Monthly Meeting*

*OCTOBER 23, 2012*

The regularly scheduled OCTOBER meeting of the Fayette County Board of Elections and Voter Registration was called to order by Chairman Addison Lester 5:00 P.M. Chairman Lester asked that the record showed that all members were present..

A. HEARINGS - Supervisor Sawyer reported that we would not have hearing at this meeting.

B. OLD BUSINESS

NONE

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. ELECTION UPDATE

GENERAL ELECTION

Supervisor Sawyer reported that to date, the absentee team has mailed out 3,347 ballots. Of these ballots, we have had 1,687 returned. From all three advanced voting locations to date, we have voted 11,311 voters to vote in person at the Elections Office, Peachtree City Library and the Tyrone Town Hall.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS - Supervisor Sawyer gave board members a copy of a booklet containing two proposed amendments to the Constitution in their entirety which will be submitted at the general election on November 6, 2012. This booklet also includes summaries of the two proposals as prepared by Attorney General Samuel S. Olens, Secretary of State Brian P. Kemp and Legislative Counsel Wayne R. Allen.

CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE – REDEVELOPMENT POWERS REFERENDUM -

Supervisor Sawyer also gave the board a handout explaining the referendum question on the City of Fayetteville’s ballot. This is asking Fayetteville citizens to approve the Act which would authorize the City of Fayetteville to exercise redevelopment powers under the ‘Redevelopment Powers Law’.

POLL WATCHER SAMPLE LETTER - Supervisor Sawyer gave a copy of a sample letter to board members that might be used with poll watchers. This was available from the forms library on the Secretary of State’s e-learn module. Arnold Martin from the Democratic party has indicated that he has 17 poll watchers already signed up and that the Republican party is also working to get poll watchers ready as well.

LIST OF POLL WORKERS - Supervisor Sawyer presented a list of poll workers that had been scheduled to work in the November General Election. Member Hicks asked about the status of Larris Marks – was she a poll worker or not. Board members noted that the list showed quite a few new workers. It was reported that this could be the result of Fayette County Board of Elections

workers dropping out or the need to add additional workers in anticipation of a large voter turnout. The group of workers at the end of the list labeled as EXTRA are ones who have asked to work at the polls and have come to the training classes. At this time, they have not been assigned to a polling location but can be used if a poll manager has a worker who becomes unable to work or they decide that they have a need for another worker. Member Hicks stated that he would like to go on record as to why he was asking - specifically. he has gotten request and he thought about it as well that we probably needed more African-Americans as poll workers in order to be more reflective of our community. Supervisor Sawyer said that he did not know the race of the workers listed as new, but that a lot of the new workers are African Americans. Member Hicks asked if we could determine which ones of the "new" are African Americans and let him know, he would appreciate it. He also said that he didn't think that we needed to do any special recruiting, but that if we got the pool bigger, we would get fairer representation. Member Watts said that we have a large number of our poll workers are very seasoned and we don't want to move them out of the way for a quota system. Member Hicks said that we also don't want to fill openings only with whites. Member Watts said that we probably hadn't even really looked at that. Member Hicks said that lots of persons are really looking at it and we must make a conscience effort that this doesn't happen. A lot of people who wish to be poll workers realize that they can't get the time off from their work. Member Hicks said that he wasn't necessarily saying to use a quota, but that we must expand our pool. Supervisor Sawyer reported on the part-time election clerks. He said that he had mostly brought new people on that had either been recommended by other workers or had called and ask to work. He also had asked Arnold Martin and other persons he knew to recommend persons who would like to work on a part-time basis. Member Hicks said that his comments were no reflection on this office – he felt that they were doing an outstanding job, but that he was talking about remarks that had been made to him from the community and his efforts to solidify these comments about how the office is doing things great. He stated that his comments had nothing to do with the office, but dealing with people who thought that there was always a conspiracy theory about what is going on. He felt that if we added more people to the pot, it would help in getting the word out into the community of what is actually happening. Chairman Lester said that he thought Member Hicks point was well taken regarding the poll workers. Supervisor Sawyer said that he would attempt to get with Officer Jones and see if we could determine how many of the NEW were African-Americans. This would help Member Hicks in dealing with citizens that he came in contact with in the community. Member Watts said that one of the precincts who has all black workers has expressed a concern that maybe we need some white workers. The board stated that maybe in future elections we could swap some workers so that we could get more diversity. Member Hicks stated that he thought that this process would work itself out through natural attrition in the future. He also stated that if we had recommendations with names that were presented would be very helpful in this process. Supervisor Sawyer said that most of the precincts handled their own promotions – an assistant will move up to manager if there is an opening at their particular precinct. Chairman Lester stated that typically poll managers recruit their own workers. Maybe we could make assignments once we knew the race of the workers and move them around. Sawyer reported that some of the new workers were randomly assigned to a poll based on an application that they had filed here in the office. Chairman Lester said that before the next election we might go to some of

the precincts and asked them to make some changes in their workers. We might just give them the reasons that we have discussed. Member Hicks stated that spreading them around may make the numbers look larger and accomplish what we have been talking about. This will help by having diversity somewhere in each precinct. Supervisor Sawyer stated that probably next year would be a good time to take a look at making changes or consolidating voting precincts. Another change would be to get all citizens of the cities and towns at a precinct that is totally within the city. Member Watts reported that because of annexation by the cities in the past, it was impossible to get the citizens of the cities and towns voting at the same precinct for both county and city and town elections. Member Watts stated that an off year would be the best time for this to be worked on.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO TABULATE EARLY - Supervisor Sawyer made the request to allow staff to open ballots returned beginning at 9:00am on election day. We would open the outer envelope with the oath and also open the inner envelope containing the actual ballot. We would also begin running these ballots through the Opti-Scan; however, we would not run the "ENDER" card until 7:00pm or later. Member Watts made a motion to approve beginning to open ballots at 9:00am on November 6<sup>th</sup> and to post a public notice to that effect. Member Hicks seconded the motion. The motion carried 3 – 0.

#### MUNICIPAL SPECIAL ELECTION

Supervisor Sawyer reported that through today we had voted in person 1,743 on the City of Fayetteville referendum question. This was the total who had voted at all three locations.

2. VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE - The Knights of Columbus conducted the one-day Voter Registration Drive at all of the Fayette County High Schools on October 1, 2012. There were 57 applications that were completed during this drive. Member Watts said that this may be something that they like to do each year since this was so successful.

3. BOARD OF EDUCATION – RECALL – DR. BOB TODD - Supervisor Sawyer reported that he had received the completed Application for Recall from Melissa Hill to recall Dr. Bob Todd. The recall timeline was presented to the board and if the process were followed, the Special Election to elect his replacement could be conducted as far out as the end of May 2013. The application required that the signers must have been eligible to have voted when the elected official was elected into office. There were a number of these that were not registered in Fayette County at the time that Dr. Todd was elected into office and the staff was unable to locate three additional names. This made the number of names at 95 which is less than the required number of names to be sufficient for the application. Member Watts asked if she had provided a valid reason for the recall. The reason as submitted by the recall committee was presented to the board. Chairman Lester said that he may be interpreting this thing wrong, but the required number for the application was 100 or 10% of the eligible number of voters, whichever is the smaller. Member Hicks said that it spells out that they have to have been eligible to vote at the time this person was last elected. Supervisor Sawyer said that this was very important since we have a number of signers that registered in Fayette

County after the date that Dr. Todd was elected to the Board of Education. This basically prohibits someone who was not eligible to vote for a candidate to sign an application to have that person recalled. Member Watts said that it was her thought that the person who brought in the application will have to start over in getting names if the number presented is not sufficient. She also said that the recall law does not allow the person notarizing to also sign the petition and also the application cannot be returned to the chairman to add additional names or to make changes to the signatures submitted to the elections superintendent. The person wanting to recall Dr. Todd told me that she first wanted to recall Marion Key. They could not go after her since you cannot recall during the last six months or the first six months of an elected official's term. The second phase of this process would require getting approximately 21,084 signatures. This would entail a huge effort and would appear hopeless at this phase of the process. The 21,084 signatures is 30% of the registered voters at the time that Dr. Todd was elected. The board reviewed the recall procedures and looked at the reasons presented as to why an elected official could be recalled. The person should have kept a copy of the application with all signatures and can return to the same people. But the original copy cannot be returned and she must start over. Member Watts made a motion to reject the application as submitted due to the fact that there are only 95 eligible voters signatures to meet the 100 required signatures and that Dr. Todd was notified. Member Hicks seconded the motion. The motion carried 3 – 0.

4. CHANGE TO 21-3-413 – POLICY PERTAINING TO USE OF PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT AT POLLING PLACES - This policy was reviewed with all training classes. Supervisor Sawyer reported that the final training class was after the board meeting at 7:00PM and that all board members were invited to attend. The amendments discussed at the last meeting have been made; however, we are still working on a form to get the voter to sign to give a release for the media to use their picture if taken.

5. CHANGE OF ADDRESS – CHUCK ODDO Mr. Oddo is looking at moving to 255 Millhaven Landing and he asked the Election Department to determine that this was still within the County Commission District # 1. Supervisor Sawyer printed off information from the ARC Reader showing the County Commission District # 1 and the location of the possible new residence of Commissioner Elect Charles W. Oddo

#### D. OTHER BUSINESS

Elections Officer Crosby wanted to report why we didn't have a hearing for deceased and felons. She reported that she had let this meeting slip up on her as we had been working to get all new registrants into the GO system after the voter registration cutoff. She indicated that she would be working on it, but just didn't get it ready for this meeting. She also reported that we are working on some challenges and will have them ready to present to the board at the next meeting.

Supervisor Sawyer and Election Officer Crosby reported that there would be a lot of ballots that would have to be duplicated. Officer Jones reported that to date we had had 94 Electronic Ballots returned - we also have 174 additional ballots that could be returned and would have to be duplicated. The board decided that they should be here on

election night at 5:00pm. The board also had a discussion of setting up a vote review panel to come in early to duplicate these EBD ballots rather than put this total burden upon the board. Chairman Lester stated that he would be free to work on them since he was past his cousin's election. Member Watts stated that we could get a committee set up to duplicate the EBD's and that the board could come in to review the duplication work of the committee. Officer Jones had stepped into the meeting and reported that when the EBD ballots were returned, an actual ballot was put with the EBD and would then be used for duplicating. Member Watts made a motion that we appoint a committee – VOTE REVIEW PANEL - to be here at a time that is agreeable with Brenda to begin duplicating the EBD ballots. This could include appointees who are volunteering from both political parties. Member Hicks seconded the motion made by Member Watts. The vote carried 3 – 0 . Board members and staff can begin asking who would be willing to work to help with duplication. We just need to have them here so that all duplication will be complete by the time the board gets here at 5:00pm. Member Watts stated that we may want the vote review panel to come in at 9:00am

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

NONE

F. OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

NONE

E. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Member Hicks at 6:00pm. Member Watts seconded the motion. The motion carried 3 – 0 .